



IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) ~~[[M]]~~In a method in a spraying apparatus, especially a spraying apparatus in= tended for the humidification of intake air, said apparatus comprising at least one spraying nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d) for spraying a first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas into the intake air, characterized the improvements in that, after the supply of the first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas to be for the spraying has been interrupted, a second pressure medium, ~~such as a liquid and/or gas~~[[,]] is conveyed to the nozzle, or the supply of the first pressure medium, (liquid and/or gas) to the nozzle is continued at a substantially lower pressure to prevent clogging of the nozzle (1a,1b,1c,1d).

2. (original) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the second pressure medium is supplied into the feed channel (2a, 2b, 2c, 2d) of the nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d) at a pressure considerably lower than the pressure used for actual humidification of intake air.

3. (currently amended) Method ~~according to claim 1~~ in a spraying apparatus or humidifier for intake air, said apparatus comprising at least one spraying nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d) for spraying a first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas into the intake air, characterized in that:

after a supply of the first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas for the spraying has been interrupted, a second pressure medium, liquid and/or gas is conveyed to the nozzle, or the supply of the first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas to the nozzle is continued at a substantially lower pressure to prevent clogging of the nozzle (1a,1b,1c,1d), and

~~characterized in that the second pressure medium, liquid and/o gas is introduced into the a~~

feed channel (2a, 2b, 2c, 2d) of the nozzle at a point between a valve element (A1, B1, C1, D1) and the nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d).

4. (currently amended) Method according to ~~claim 1~~ in a spraying apparatus or humidifier for intake air, said apparatus comprising at least one spraying nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d) for spraying a first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas into the intake air, characterized in that

after a supply of the first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas for the spraying has been interrupted, a second pressure medium, liquid and/or gas is conveyed to the nozzle, or the supply of the first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas to the nozzle is continued at a substantially lower pressure to prevent clogging of the nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d), and

~~characterized in that~~ the admission of the first pressure medium into the feed channel (25a, 25b, 25c, 25d) of the second pressure medium is prevented by a check valve (23).

5. (currently amended) Method according to ~~claim 1~~ in a spraying apparatus or humidifier for intake air, said apparatus comprising at least one spraying nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d) for spraying a first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas into the intake air, characterized in that

after a supply of the first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas for the spraying has been interrupted, a second pressure medium, liquid and/or gas is conveyed to the nozzle, or the supply of the first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas to the nozzle is continued at a substantially lower pressure to prevent clogging of the nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d), and

~~characterized in that~~ a supply pressure is maintained in the supply pipe (21) of the second pressure medium.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 6~~ in a spraying apparatus or humidifier for intake air, said apparatus comprising at least one spraying nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d) for spraying a first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas into the intake air, characterized by
means for conveying a second pressure medium, liquid and/or gas to the nozzle after supply of the first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas to the nozzle has been interrupted to prevent clogging of the nozzle,
~~characterized in that the apparatus comprises~~ a pressure medium source, ~~such as a~~ or pump (20) pumping pressurized air, and
means for conveying the pressure medium from the pressure medium source to the nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d).

8. (currently amended) Apparatus ~~according to claim 6~~ in a spraying apparatus or humidifier for intake air, said apparatus comprising at least one spraying nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d) for spraying a first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas into the intake air, characterized by
means for conveying a second pressure medium, liquid and/or gas to the nozzle after supply of the first pressure medium, liquid and/or gas to the nozzle has been interrupted to prevent clogging of the nozzle,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the second pressure medium, liquid and/or gas is conveyed using a pipeline (25a, 25b, 25c, 25d) connected in ~~the~~ a nozzle feed channel (2a, 2b, 2c, 2d) at a point between a valve element (A1, B1, C1, D1) and the nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d).

9. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 8, characterized in that each pipeline (25a, 25b, 25c, 25d) used for supplying the second pressure medium is provided with a check valve to prevent the admission of the first pressure medium.
10. (canceled)
11. (new) Method according to claim 3, characterized in that the second pressure medium is supplied into the feed channel (2a, 2b, 2c, 2d) of the nozzle (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d) at a pressure considerably lower than pressure of the intake air.